

## Home Circle.

### MR. MOODY ON HOME TRAINING.

I will admit I've heard of many Christian people having bad children, but they are not the worst children. That was tested once. A whole territory was taken in which fathers and mothers were Christians, and it was found that two thirds of the children were members of the churches; but they took a portion of country where all the parents were not Christians, and it was found that not one in twelve of the children attended churches. That was the proportion.

Look at the good man who had a bad son. Do you want to know the reason? In the first place, children do not inherit grace. To have a good nature, a man must be born of God. There is another reason: A father may be a very good man, but the mother may be pulling in another way. She may be ambitious, and may want her children to occupy a high worldly position. She has some high ambition, and trains the child for the world. Again, it may be the reverse—a holy, pious mother and a worldly father; and it is pretty hard when father and mother do not pull together.

And another reason is—and you will excuse me the expression—a great many people have got very little sense about bringing up children. Now, I've known mothers to punish their children by making them read the Bible. Do not be guilty of such a thing. If you want children not to hate the Bible do not punish them by making them read it. It is the most attractive book in the world; but that is the way to spoil its attractiveness, and make them hate it with a perfect hate.

There is another reason; A good many people are engaged in looking after other people's children and neglecting their own. No father or mother has a right to do this, whatever may be the position they hold in the world. The father may be a statesman or a great business man, but he is responsible for his children. If they do not look after their children they will have to answer for it some day. There will be a blight in their paths, and their last days will be very bitter.

There are a great many reasons which I might bring forward if I had time, why good people's children turn out bad; but let me say one word about bringing up these children—how to train them in Christian ways. The Word is very plain; "Teach them diligently." In the street cars, as we go about our business, night and morning, talk of Christ and heavenly things.

It seems to me as if these things were

the last things many of us think about, and as if Christ was banished from our homes. A great many people have a good name as Christians. They talk about ministers and Sunday-schools, and will come down and give a dinner to the bootblacks, and seem to be strong patrons of the cause of Christ; but when it comes to talking to children personally about Christ, that is another thing. The Word is very plain, "Teach them diligently;" and if we want them to grow up a blessing to the church of God and to the world we must teach them.

I can imagine some of you saying, "It may be very well for Mr. Moody to lay down theories, but there are a great many difficulties in the way." I heard of a minister who said he had the grandest theory upon the bringing up of children, and he found that his theory was all wrong. They were all differently constituted.

I will admit that this is one difficulty; but if our heart is set upon this one thing—to have our children in glory—God will give us all the light we need. He is not going to leave us in darkness. If that is not the aim of our heart make it so this very night.

And another thing about government: Never teach them revenge. If a baby falls down on the floor, don't give it a book with which to strike the floor. They have enough of revenge in them without being taught it. Then, don't teach them to lie. You don't like that; but how many parents have told their children to go to the door, when they did not want to see the visitor, and say, "Mother is not in." That is a lie. Children are very keen to detect. They very soon see those lies, and this lays the foundation for a great deal of trouble afterward.

"Ah," some of you say, "I never do this." Well, suppose some one comes in that you don't want to see. You give him a welcome; and when he rises to go you entreat him to stay; but the moment he is out of the door you say, "What a bore!" The children wander at first, but they very soon begin to imitate the father and mother. Children are very good imitators.

A father and mother never ought to do a thing they don't want their children to do. If you don't want them to smoke, don't you smoke; if you don't want them to chew, don't you chew; if you don't want them to play billiards, don't you play billiards; if you don't want them to drink intoxicants, don't you drink them, because children are grand imitators. If you don't want them to break the Sabbath day, keep it holy yourself; if you

want them to go to church, go to church yourself.

It is very often by imitation that they utter their first oath: that they tell their first lie; and then they grow upon them, and when they try to quit the habit, it has grown so strong upon them that they cannot do it.

"Ah," some say, "we do not believe in children being converted. Let them grow up to manhood and womanhood, and then talk of converting them." They forget that in the meantime their characters are formed, and perhaps they have begun to enter those dens of infamy, and when they have arrived at manhood or womanhood we find it is too late to alter their character.

How unfaithful we are: "Teach them diligently." How many parents in this vast assembly know where their sons are? Their sons may be in the halls of vice. Where does your son spend his evenings? You don't care enough for him to ascertain what kind of company he keeps; what kind of books he reads; don't care whether he is reading those miserable, trashy novels or not, and getting false ideas of life. You don't know till it is too late. Oh, may God wake us up and teach us the responsibility devolving upon us in the training of our children.—*Northern Messenger*.

### KISSES AND MONEY ORDERS.

The young postmaster of an out-of-the-way German village was busy at his work in his office, when a gentle knock came to the door, and in stepped a buxum young country lass. Walking up to the desk, she handed the official, with a bashful smile, a post-office order, which he closely examined and then paid the young woman the sum inscribed.

At the same time he asked her why she had not detached the coupon from the order, as the sender had written on it a further communication for her.

"Indeed!" said the girl. "Well, you see, I can't read. Perhaps you'll be so kind as to read it for me."

The postmaster read as follows: "I send you herewith three florins and a thousand kisses." Glancing at the young person, he added, with his accustomed official gravity:—

"You have now got the money, and I am now ready to give you the kisses at once."

The young peasant woman accepted the balance of her order. On reaching home she said to her folk, "Eh, but it's a grand concern—this post office! You can now get kisses sent along with your money-orders."—*Exchange*.